

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. **(Previously Presented)** A method of determining the severity of thrombophilia, comprising measuring a von Willebrand factor-cleaving protease from a sample of bodily fluid from a patient suffering from one or more diseases selected from the group consisting of pulmonary embolism, cerebral infarction, veno-occlusive disease, and deep vein thrombosis, wherein said bodily fluid is selected from the group consisting of whole blood, blood plasma, and serum; and correlating the quantitative level of von Willebrand factor -cleaving protease in the sample to that which would be present in a normal person, with a lower level present in the sample being indicative of an increased severity of thrombophilia.
2. **(Canceled)**
3. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~degree~~ severity of thrombophilia is detected in a patient under a long-term treatment with dialysis accompanied by repeated shunt.
4. **(Canceled)**
5. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the von Willebrand factor-cleaving protease is immunologically measured using an antibody which specifically binds to the von Willebrand factor-cleaving protease, or a fragment of the antibody.
6. **(Previously Presented)** A kit for detecting and analyzing the degree of thrombophilia, comprising an antibody which specifically binds to a von Willebrand factor-cleaving protease, or a fragment of the antibody; and instructions to use the antibody on a sample of bodily fluid from a patient suffering from one or more diseases selected from the group consisting of pulmonary embolism, cerebral infarction, veno-occlusive disease, and deep vein thrombosis.
7. **(Previously Presented)** A method of determining the severity of thrombophilia in a patient, comprising:

collecting a sample of bodily fluid from said patient, said bodily fluid being selected from the group consisting of whole blood, blood plasma, and serum;

analyzing said sample using an immunological or biochemical method to quantitatively assess the level of von Willebrand factor-cleaving protease present in the sample;

correlating the quantitative level of von Willebrand factor-cleaving protease in the sample to that which would be present in a normal person, with a lower level present in the sample being indicative of an increased severity of thrombophilia, wherein the patient is suffering from one or more diseases selected from the group consisting of pulmonary embolism, cerebral infarction, veno-occlusive disease, and deep vein thrombosis.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 7, where the bodily fluid is blood plasma.

9. **(Canceled)**

10. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 7, where the patient is a person under a long-term treatment with dialysis accompanied by repeated shunts.